

# Daniel Adamson Preservation Society

PRESS RELEASE

10 May 2022

## VIP BOAT TRIP ABOARD 'THE DANNY' HERITAGE STEAMSHIP THANKS PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Award-winning heritage steamship, the 'Daniel Adamson', is celebrating six years of community engagement and education since it was restored and re-launched as a public passenger boat in 2016.

The occasion was marked with a VIP boat trip on Friday 6 May, heralding its first full season of boat trips along the River Weaver Navigation to the world's first boat Lift, Anderton Boat Lift in Northwich - linking together two of the North West's great historic waterway attractions.

On board were representatives of dozens of partners, groups and organisations who have been associated or benefited from the 'Danny' 1903 Art Deco tug since its remarkable restoration led by volunteers.

Cheshire High Sheriff Jeannie France-Hayhurst, Peel Ports director Phil Hall, Tatton MP Esther McVey and representatives from the Canal & River Trust, National Lottery Heritage Fund, National Historic Ships, Riverside College, Halton MIND, Halton Council and the Cheshire Community Foundation were among more than 50 guests who enjoyed a 90 minute cruise through the Cheshire countryside along the river from Acton Bridge to the Anderton Boat Lift, operated by the Canal & River Trust.

The Danny is the last surviving steam-powered tug built on the Mersey and is part of the official National Historic Fleet, alongside such famous ships as the Cutty Sark and SS Great Britain. It was rescued from the scrapyards by an amazing group of volunteers, led by Dan Cross, a professional Mersey tug skipper, and restored at Cammell Laird ship builders in Birkenhead, with the help of a £3.8million Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

This story of success, resilience and determination is now helping to inspire a new generation of youngsters and providing engaging experiences for adults and children from all walks of life. These include promising young engineers from Halton's Riverside College and Cronton Sixth Form College, as well as undergraduates from universities such as Newcastle and Liverpool John Moores, and primary school children from Cheshire, Halton and Liverpool

Halton MIND mental health charity, Power in Partnership College, Cheshire Autism Practical Support, scouts, guides and cadets are just a few of the many community groups who have benefited. And this spring, youngsters (aged 8-25) from Cheshire, Halton, Warrington and Wirral are to take part in arts workshops and heritage visits as part of a special Queen's Platinum Jubilee 'Let's Create' project, in conjunction with Youth Federation, the Canal & River Trust, funded by Arts Council England, through the Cheshire Community Foundation.

Dan Cross from the Daniel Adamson Preservation Society said: “The last six years have been a remarkable journey and this special boat trip was to say thank you to the many people who have played a part in making the whole enterprise such a success.

“More than a hundred brilliant volunteers keep the ship afloat and run public boat trips on a regular basis, which then helps to support our extensive programme of public engagement and education.

“The Danny is far more than just a restored steamship, special though that is. The opportunities for education and enrichment that it presents have the power to change and improve lives, and that is priceless.”

And the benefits are not always one way. As well as contributing to the maintenance of the Danny and volunteering at community events, young people on work placement have supported the design and creation of the Danny virtual reality experience, which allows people to tour the whole ship, including the engine and boiler rooms, making it accessible for people who are physically unable to get on board.

For more details about volunteering, engagement opportunities or to book tickets for individual cruises, visit the website: [www.thedanny.co.uk](http://www.thedanny.co.uk).

## **Ends**

**For further information, photos or to arrange press trips**, please contact Danny PR consultant, Lynn Pegler, Pegler Communications. Email: [lynn@peglercommunications.co.uk](mailto:lynn@peglercommunications.co.uk). Tel 07783 686246

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## **Photo captions:**

1,2,3. The Daniel Adamson steam ship ‘The Danny’ sailing from Acton Bridge to Anderton Boat Lift, near Northwich.

4. The Danny VIP boat trip group (L to R): Phil Hall (Peel Ports director), Cheshire High Sheriff Jeannie France-Hayhurst, Tatton MP Esther McVey, Dan Cross (founder of Daniel Adamson Preservation Society (DAPS)), Louise Sutherland (National Lottery Heritage Fund, head of engagement), Northwich Town Mayor Cllr Sam Naylor, Steve Bergquist (Canal & River Trust NW community engagement manager), Simon Papprell (Canal & River Trust national partnership manager).

5. Council leaders: Cllr Brian Starkey (Sutton Weaver Parish Council, chair), Cllr Sam Naylor (Northwich Town Mayor), Cllr Rob Polehill (Halton Borough Council former leader).

6. DAPS trustee James Seddon, High Sheriff, DAPS chairman Stuart Wood.

7. Danny volunteer Colin Leonard with Carly Graham (Anderton Boat Lift visitor centre manager)

8. Danny volunteer skipper David McNamee and helmsman Graham Jackson

9. Danny volunteer engineers Andy Dobbs, John Hake, Colin Wright

10. 17-year-old William Burns, an engineering student at Riverside College, volunteers once a week. Pictured with volunteer engineer Colin Wright.

11. Cronton 6<sup>th</sup> Form engineering students Declan Corcoran (16), Emily Brown (17) and Ethan Ali (17) are shown the ropes by Danny volunteer engineer John Hake.

12. Riverside College engineering student Skye Brocklebank (18) volunteers once a week.

## **Notes to Editors**

### **History of the Daniel Adamson Steamship**

The Daniel Adamson Steamship is the last surviving steam-powered tug built on the Mersey and is part of the official National Historic Fleet, alongside such famous ships as the Cutty Sark and SS Great Britain.

Built in 1903, the vessel was originally named the Ralph Brocklebank. Its first job was to transport passengers and goods along the River Mersey between the terminus of the inland canal network at Ellesmere Port and the international docks in Liverpool. At 200 tons, the tug had the capacity to tow 10 loaded barges (Mersey Flats) and carry up to 100 passengers. During the First World War, she also had a brief spell working for the Royal Navy as an unarmed patrol boat around the Liverpool coast.

In 1922 the ship was sold to the Manchester Ship Canal Company, which initially used her as an operational tug. She was renamed after the canal's founding father and company chairman Daniel Adamson and in 1935 was transformed into their VIP hospitality ship, complete with opulent Art Deco lounges.

By the 1970s, trade on the ship canal was in decline and in 1984 the vessel was withdrawn from service and heading for the scrapyards. Dan Cross, a professional Mersey tug skipper, led a remarkable rescue mission to save and restore the unique coal-fired steamship. Supported by dozens of passionate volunteers, he formed the Daniel Adamson Preservation Society in 2004 and thanks to a £3.8million Heritage Lottery Fund grant, the Danny underwent a painstaking transformation at Cammell Laird shipbuilders in Birkenhead.

Since 2016, the beautiful historic vessel has been run as a passenger cruise ship, mostly operated by dedicated volunteers – tickets helping to offset the annual running costs of c.£250,000. The group also has close links with many schools, colleges and youth groups and runs a variety of tours, training courses and education events.